

# EXCITEMENT CITY UNLIMITED

#18

Martin Luther King Day, 1989

Circulation 83

Welcome to ECU, the zine which wishes happy birthday to one of its subscribers, Sylvia Passoff. It always pays to be nice to your mother-in-law, you know.

Yes, this issue is computerised. Although I have been a self-styled computerphobe for many years, I must admit that word-processing has a lot of advantages. Maybe I'll learn to like "Christopher Computer", as Barbara has named it.

On the hobby service front, Paul Gardner (20 Spruce Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301, USA) has kindly taken over the American side of the International Subscription Exchange. See pages 14-15 for details such as they are.

Barbara and I have also decided not to do this year's Runestone Poll Pledge Drive because we won't have the spare time to do it properly. The Pledge Drive is probably the only really useful thing the hobby does. If you would like to take it over, please contact either myself or Bruce Linsey. Meanwhile, you may be pleased to hear that the 1988 Pledge Drive raised exactly \$850.00, all of which was donated to the American Foundation For AIDS Research. Barbara and I used our contribution to round the amount up to an even figure. Contributors should receive their receipts in a couple of weeks.

I'm handing over most of my hobby responsibilities because I recently learnt that I have been accepted to study for an MBA at Pace University, starting later this month. I'm really looking forward to studying again but the combination of a full-time job, school in the evenings and homework will definitely cut into my hobby time. Expect some slimmer issues...

**PLAYLIST:** Morrissey, Viva Hate; Sonic Youth, Evol; Throwing Muses, House Tornado; Jefferson Airplane, 2400 Fulton Street; The The, Infected; U2, Rattle & Hum, War; Various, Have Yourself a Greylight Christmas

**READLIST:** Severyn Bruyn, The Field of Social Investment; Tom Wolfe, The Bonfire of the Vanities

Excitement City Unlimited is published by Simon Billenness and Barbara Passoff, 830 Victory Blvd. Apt. 6F, Staten Island, NY 10301, USA. Home phone (718) 981 8247. ECU costs 75 cents if you live in North America and \$1.00 elsewhere. Wage Peace. Ciao.

## WOULD YOU BUY A USED TARDIS FROM THIS MAN?

A review of Dr Who season #25 by our very own Carol Naylor

At the end of the last series I consoled myself with the thought that at least it couldn't get worse. In fact there were a few definite advantages: for a start Bonnie Langford left, more with a whimper than a bang.

The latest series finds our hero saddled with a new companion - only the one but he'd have his hands full keeping two out of trouble. In the latest sidekick we revert to the traditional mold: a total airhead with a room temperature IQ. She insists on referring to the Doctor as "professor", doubtless to add variety to the usual companion's litany of "What's this for, Doctor?", "Why are you doing that, Doctor?", and that all-time classic "What will happen if I go off investigating on my own, Doctor?". Apart from that she also has an unhealthy predilection for high explosive (unhealthy for those about her anyway) and answers to the name of "Ace" (a total misnomer as she's clearly not playing with a full deck of cards).

Mercifully the new series has begun with the return of our old chums the Daleks. These oversized pepper pots have been upgraded and now come in two models; the old favourites and the new improved version: white with gold knobs on (!). You can also throw out all the old jokes about bugging their plans for universal domination with a flight of stairs ('nuf said?)

The biggest surprise however seems to be that, at long last, Sylvester McCoy seems to know what he is doing. However, although he has wisely dumped some of the idiosyncracies of the last series - mixing metaphors, cliches etc - he has retained the Doctor's fondness for moralising at precisely the wrong moments; it's not wise to tell your enemy what an utter jerk he is when he's pointing a gun at you. Furthermore, and this is surprising for a former RSC actor, he still only has two emotions - impish and angry scorn (yawn).

Finally a quick word about the sets - once again we're back in 1950's London. Will somebody explain to me why, budget aside, the streets are always totally deserted? It's getting tiresome.

November sees the Silver Jubilee of Dr Who and the papers are full of all the usual apocrypha put out in press releases by the Beeb. Former companions, whom I suspect would rather not advertise that aspect of their past (Frazer Hines is now a heart throb on Emmerdale Farm - a long way from the kilted naive Jamie), have been pestered for interviews. Short of a seance to contact William Hartnell and Patrick Troughton, there's not much more they can do.

I'm still consoling myself with the thought that it can only get better...

((How do you expect me to comment when you only leave me one

They said it would never happen...

### STAB GAMESTART

Austria: Jake Walters, 1415 Beacon Street, Brookline, MA 02148  
England: Marc Hanna, 718 Bounty #1820, Foster City, CA 94404  
France: Thomas Nash, 5512 Pilgrim Road, Baltimore, MD 21214  
Germany: Brad Wilson, PO Box 126, Wayne, PA 18087  
Italy: Derwood Bowen, 989 Morningview, Akron, OH 44305-1474  
Russia: Glenn Petroski, 210 W. Hunt, Twin Lakes, WI 53181  
Turkey: Jason Bergmann, 10740 Lathrop, Dallas, TX 75229 (home)  
PO Box 23780, Atlanta, GA 30322 (term)  
GM: Simon Billenness, 830 Victory Blvd Apt 8F, Staten Island, NY 10301  
home phone - (718) 981 8247

That's an excellent geographic spread. Each address is in a different state, including your humble GM's and both of Jason Bergmann

Just to be on the safe side, I sent you all an extra copy of my houserules and the rules for Stab. Please pay careful attention to the provisions for builds and retreats. Don't forget to keep track of your units, because I won't be allowed to tell you where they are, if you forget where you placed them!

I don't intend to use standbys in this game, so, if somebody drops out, the country will just go into anarchy.

By the way the official game name is Diced Dates. If you think that name is silly, just you wait till you hear the next one we've devised...

DEADLINE: Saturday, February 11th, 1989

I've had a couple of questions from Marc Hanna since I sent out the gamestart.

Marc: Retreats and Builds. Please explain "standard North American manner". I take it this is different from your houserules.

GM The standard practice in North American zines is to send in your summer retreats with your fall moves and include your winter retreats and builds with the following spring moves. Probably because I'm British, I prefer the British method of requiring conditional summer retreats with spring moves and conditional winter retreats and builds with autumn moves. (Yes, I even use the word Autumn!) Strictly speaking, either method contravenes the rulebook but, in practice, nobody minds.

Marc: "Switzerland is not a supply centre." What does this mean? Was it ever?

GM: No. I was just spoofing the Praxis ordinances which state that Syria is not a supply centre. Houserules need a little humour otherwise they're just too dry for my taste.

WILLIAM RUEUS DEVANE KING: SPRING 1913

Barbary build f mor, f alg  
Germany build a ber

Italy remove f tus  
Persia build f irnnc

Barbary Jake Walters

f spasc s Persian f mar, f mor-sao, f alg-wms, f wao s f nao,  
f nao s f wao

Germany Mike Pustilnik

f nao-wao, f iri-mao, f eng s f iri-mao, f wal-iri, f pic-bre  
f nth-bel, a gas-spa, a bre-par, a bur-mar, a stp s a mos,  
a mos s a sev, a sev s a rum, a ukr s a sev, a rum s a sev,  
a nun s a tyr, a tyr s a tri, a vie s a tri, a tri s a bud-ser,  
a bud-ser, a ber-sil, a gal-war

Italy Robert Acheson

a pie s Persian f mar, a ven-tri, f adr s a ven-tri, a apu-ven  
a rom s a apu-ven

Persia John Crosby

f irnnc-cas, a kaz-mos, a afg-irn, f mar s Barbary f spasc, f ant-wao  
f con-aeg, f ion-wms, f bla s a arm-sev, a arm-sev, a geo s a arm-sev

Russia Bob Gossage

a alb & a bul s a ser, a ser s Italian a ven-tri

Retreats Barbary f mao-por/can/otb

Press

Athens (Yawn)

DEADLINE Saturday, February 11th, 1989

ALSATIANCOUSINLITTLEMANWHATNOWEVERDAYISLIKEASUNDAYBENGALIINPLATFORMSANG

RAILWAY RIVALS GAMESTART: MAP T

Andrew England, Fl/98 South Road, Torrensville, SA 5031, Australia  
Paul Gardner, 20 Spruce Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301, USA  
Conrad von Metzke, 4374 Donald Ave, San Diego, CA 92117, USA  
Tom Nash, 5512 Pilgrim Road, Baltimore, MD 21214, USA  
Melinda Ann Holley, PO Box 2793, Huntington, WV 25727, USA

GM: Brian Longstaff, 13 Woodfarm Drive, Sheffield, S. Yorks S6  
SLW, UK

I sent your names and addresses to Brian a few weeks ago so he should come through with a gamestart shortly. Hopefully this one won't suffer from dropouts this time.

Tsk, an awkward seven lines to fill... How about a quick plug for the Zine Register? Ken Peel (8708 First Avenue, #T2, Silver Spring, MD 20910, USA) continues to run this zine listing with competence and style. Not only are the zine descriptions up to date and exhaustive but Ken manages to fit in plenty of amusing side comments throughout the piece. His latest innovation is to include a short letter column which rounds off the zine quite well with a little banter. For 75c, it's good value.

## WAITING LISTS

Not a lot these days...

Railway Rushes: Paul Gardner, Doug Brown, Conrad von Metzke,  
Theo Clarke?

Map I (Ireland) GM: Brian Longstaff 1 or 2 wanted

Railway Rivals is a commercial game based on railway building. You can find it in game stores but you have to look very hard. Tom Nash found it though, so it isn't impossible. Railway Rushes is a Railway Rivals variant, officially registered with the RR MNC Under the Covenant Over the Top. One or two players are wanted because I'm not sure whether Theo Clarke is still interested.

International Diplomacy: Mark Weidmark (Canada), Mike Gonsalves (USA)

GM: Mark Nelson

Mark Nelson informs that he will be sending house rules soon but this may just be a vile rumour. In any case, since he wrote to me, he is restored as the prospective GM for this game. I'm looking to attract a smorgasbord of players from North America, Europe and Australia with none of the three groupings taking up more than three spaces. Consequently, I'm particularly looking for players from Europe and Australia. Mike, do you still want to stay on this list now that you're on the gamestart in MP?

## STANDBYS

I love that automatic centring command. Can you tell?

All Purpose: Doug Brown, Mark Lilleleht, Mike Pustilnik

Cline 9: Paul Gardner, Mike Gonsalves

International Diplomacy: Bill Young, Martin Kloosterman, Robert  
Acheson, Mike Gonsalves, Brad Wilson,  
Ian Whitechurch

Downfall: John Dods, Ian Whitechurch, Jason Bergmann, Brad Wilson,  
Pete Gaughan, Mark Nelson

Railway Rivals: Paul Gardner

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INFECTED OUT OF THE BLUE INTO THE FIRE HEART LAND ANGEL SOFT DECEPTIONS SWEETBI

## INDEPENDENT DEADLINE GAMES

Artichoke Hearts Cline 9 Diplomacy (International), Autumn 1904

Braised Celery: Downfall of the Lord of the Rings, Solmath 3019-II

Spectreman: Railway Rivals (Map K), Round 8

Attack of the Killer Tomatoes: Railway Rivals (Map N), Round 3

Carnivore: International Diplomacy. Started.

Mr Peel. This list is for your benefit. Use it!

## INFLAMMATORY MATERIAL

((Now that we have our computer, I thought I'd experiment a bit. Most of the letters this issue were typed well ahead of time. As new letters arrived, I just slotted them in. Hopefully this should relieve some of the pressures of deadline weekend. How about a new title too.))

Brian Dolton Of course the main reason for writing back is to dredge up the past and mention the Hobby Charity Appeal. I don't know whether it was "successful" or not: it raised a little over 500 pounds in the end, which isn't that large a sum; though considering how many people actually donated, it came to a pretty good figure per head. It didn't do as well as I might have hoped, though. Of all the people who gave, I think it was precisely four who didn't get Lokasenna directly. The response from my own subscribers could hardly have been better. The response from the rest of the hobby was abysmal.

I am not going to shoulder the blame for that. Yes, my promotion was "guilt-ridden" (so was a lot of Bob Geldof's, you know). And I didn't know enough about the Third World, though I'm not sure how necessary prior research is. I knew enough to say "Look, there's a problem. People are dying. It's our fault. This won't change the world but it's better than doing nothing." and I still believe that. What pissed me off, as Brian Longstaff says, was the reaction from other editors. I still don't really know why reaction was so bad: but the end result was that reactions fell into three camps:

- 1) Say nothing about it (e.g. Walkerdine, Morris)
- 2) Tell people what an attention-seeking scumbag I am (e.g. Tringham, Tamlyn, Doubleday)
- 3) Tell people that while I mean well, they shouldn't contribute (e.g. Creese)

Against that sort of crap, what could I do? I tried to get the type 1) people to mention it and promptly got accused of "excessive intolerance" by Richard Bairstow. I tried to tell the type 2) people they were wrong, but none of them were interested. And I just despaired of the type 3), who couldn't be bothered to do any fund-raising themselves but, as soon as someone else came along to do some, decided it wasn't being done right.

There were editors at the time who gave me some support. The trouble was they tended to be the ones whose subscribership overlapped mine very heavily. To raise more, I needed to reach the people who read Acolyte, or NMRI, or Mad Policy.

I didn't really "all but vanish" from the hobby: Lok continued for another 13 issues after my trade cutting exercise (which was largely prompted by the reception the Hobby Charity Appeal got, I admit) and even when it did fold in another of my periods of extreme bitterness, I kept the games going in Bela, which two and a half years on is still going and most unlikely to fold.

But, thin skin or no, it was hurtful. Brian's wrong to say that "anyone who'd ever met (me) knew that just wasn't true" because all of the aforementioned editors, save for Richard Morris, had met me, and in some cases were (I thought) good friends. But they still couldn't find it in themselves to support the HCA.

That depressed the hell out of me.

((As far as I'm concerned, raising the British equivalent of \$910 (at current exchange rates) is pretty successful. Hell, you raised more than the Diplomacy Alliance Against AIDS!

When I decided to this year's hobby pledge drive, I was mindful of the criticism you attracted and I was determined not to let the pledge drive degenerate into controversy. To be blunt, I just don't think it is worthwhile to try to change people's minds through argument. Flak is best ignored, if only to safeguard your own blood pressure! Indifference, again, is just something you have to live with. Of course it's easy to wonder what would have happened if your project had been enthusiastically plugged by some important hobby member or other, but there's no point torturing yourself with imagined possibilities.))

Larry Peery The enclosed article is a bit of background for you.

Even more troublesome is an article that appeared earlier this week announcing the preliminary results of the first AIDS blood testing among some 5,000 college students selected in a random testing. Their positive test results was some 3%, only 1% below that of federal and state prisons. They don't have the complete results yet and they don't have a male/female breakdown but what it suggests is that the AIDS infection rate is moving into the general population. //

AIDS has already had its impact on the hobby and will no doubt grow. One member of the hobby has it that I know of. Another member is working, for minimum wages and 80+ hours a week, caring for AIDS patients. He's had eight different clients in 2 years. Mike's a professional embalmer and funeral director, one of the few who will handle deceased AIDS victims. It takes him an hour to put on the protective clothing he has to wear to deal with such cases. And another hour and a half to clean up when he's done. One needle prick and that could be it. And yet he handles these cases because most mortuaries won't touch them. My favorites are the Mormon funeral homes. You should see what happens when they get one of their own and find out it's an AIDS case. Obviously I'm a bit bitter about it all.

As I made clear earlier in a private letter, I opposed the idea of donating money from your fund drive to AIDS research. I believe that's the government's responsibility. And the amount of money being spent now, I think, is adequate. What money won't buy is time: time to do the research that should have been done years ago, and time to save the thousands and thousands of lives that are going to be lost because we procrastinated.

Where the money needs to go, I feel, is to help AIDS victims while they're still alive. A lot of these people are living in a dual hell. Joan Kroc offered \$14 million to build a hospice for AIDS victims in San Diego so they would have a place to go and die with dignity. The state won't license it (even though it hasn't been built) because it won't have the facilities a terminal patient facility (e.g. major hospital) must have: operating rooms, emergency rooms, big medical staffs, etc. It's a Catch-22 situation. And people go on dying. So, again this year, I didn't send any money for your fund raiser. Instead I donated it to one of the AISS relief projects. \$1 there is worth \$100 for research. But that's just my view.

((Thanks for an interesting letter. Barbara and I are more of the opinion that, in the long term, it is best to spend money on finding a cure or, at least, more effective methods of treatment. Although finding a cure may be the government's responsibility, we have much more faith in the competence of non-profit groups like the American Foundation for AIDS Research.

Actually, I didn't expect you, or any other hobby member with a high awareness of AIDS, to give to the Pledge Drive because you've, no doubt, donated more than your share of time and money already. If people choose to give to other charities instead of the DAAA, that's also fine by me. There's more than one way to fight a fire.))

Chris Carrier Read page 11 with great interest. Who was it that said Brita don't feud? ((Me, methinks))

I probably would have bashed Brian Dolton pretty hard - I look down on self-righteousness, especially whining-guilt mongering appeals from affluent types who feel guilty about having money. I no longer support Runestone Poll related charity drives, simply because Real World controversies have no place in the Poll as far as I'm concerned.

((Actually, there are feuds in Britain. Don't forget the Rusty Bolt "Feud of the Year" category pre-dates your own Feuder Awards. There was a fair amount of controversy surrounding Brian's Charity Appeal. Every year there are comments made about the British Zine Poll such as "There are less eligible voters on the list than actually voted for my zine." Sounds familiar, doesn't it? The most explosive feud I witnessed was the Tamlyn/Rogerson & Dolton dispute which lasted several months and was instrumental in Pete folding his zine. However British feuds generate only a fraction of the heat of American feuds. At it's height, the Tamlyn/Rogerson & Dolton dispute only took up a couple of pages and, these days, the three gentlemen concerned have, much to their credit, made up. The worst American feuds, by contrast, take up whole zines, last for year after tedious year, and never get resolved.



You're right that self-righteousness and guilt-mongering can turn off contributors. Barbara and I did our best to keep the pledge drive publicity light and entertaining and I reckon we succeeded. After all, you did contribute... However that sort of approach, while inadvisable, wouldn't put me off giving. I don't agree at all that Real World controversies have no place in the Poll. While interesting, the Poll isn't at all important so why not attach a fund raiser for a worthy cause? In any case, I expect such fund raisers increase voter turnout more than they discourage it.))

Larry Peery And now for the serious stuff, like World Dip Con.//

First, I am upset about the fact that you seem to be changing some of the agreements that we reached in England. Also your presentation of some of those agreements seems to be different from what I recall. It is too bad that we never put down on paper what we all agreed on, if we did, in fact, agree on anything. It was my understanding that the next WDC would be held in North America in 1990 and that the decision would be made at next year's DIPCON in San Diego by those present there based on presentations made there by potential hosts. I promised that the decision and review process would be open and fair to all and that we would do everything we could to make the event a success. You said you would conduct a fair and open discussion of the idea of WDC. I understood that Richard Walkerdine would also be involved in the process of selecting a site since, after all, WDC was their idea. I also understood that the Australians would be involved and the most likely 1992 host if they were interested. These are my recollections.

Fred Davis I enjoyed reading the discussion on where to hold the 1990 DipCon and World Dip Con. To begin with, I definitely believe that the two should be held together. I more or less said this to several people at the 1988 World Dip Con, and everyone to whom I spoke agreed with me.

Richard Walkerdine I don't remember us actually agreeing anything with Larry at World Dip Con except perhaps that 1990 in the USA ought to be the next one. But like you my memory is a bit hazy...

For those who didn't make World Dip Con '88 in Britain, the discussions, to which Larry refers, were a series of chats involving myself, Larry and anyone else who happened to have a suggestion. Since nobody took notes it seems that we all went home with different assumptions. For instance I thought that we had generally agreed that a Dipcon World Dip Con combo was the best way to proceed in 1990. Perhaps we ought to base our decisions on current considerations rather than our uncertain and contradictory recollections.

On a minor note, I'm certain that World Dip Con was Fred Davis' idea, not Richard Walkerdine's, and I was mainly responsible in selling the idea to Richard.

Larry Peery What I have seen in ECU has not been what I expected. It seems to me (and I may be wrong in my interpretation) that you have gone back on some of those agreements and you are changing things around on others. Frankly I do not favor the idea of letting the hobby as a whole decide where WDC should be. Nor do I favor linking a WDC up to a specific event such as DIPCON. WDC should be quality event even if it cannot be quantity event in terms of turn out. I believe we can have both if people will work to make it so. However, the people who are doing most of the talking in this case are not people likely to that work. I've spent close to a hundred hours in the last month visiting some 22 different hotels in San Diego looking for a DIPCON XXII site. It's hard work as you'll read in the next DW. It requires special knowledge that most people don't have. Personally, as in most things, I think the people who do the work and pay the bills should make the decisions.

((I think you're being a little unfair about the discussion in ECU. All the North American input last time came from con organisers who are experienced and are putting in the just the kind of hard work you (rightly) deem essential. I'd wholeheartedly agree that the eventual con organisers should be given a free rein. In fact, I think it's a truism that, in a hobby such as ours, con organisers get to make almost all the decisions anyway. However, input from prospective attendees, especially those from abroad, is helpful and should be encouraged.

The main view I'm receiving from European and Australian hobbyists is that their main reason for attending is to meet the widest cross-section of American hobbyists. I reckon a a Dipcon/World Dip Con would maximise the turnout of well known hobby figures while adding a little extra to both events. This, of course, brings us back to the hoary topic of site selection.))

Ron Cameron As one of the people on the Dipcon '89 committee, I was glad to see some preliminary discussion of Dipcon and future World Dip Cons in ECU #14. I certainly have some personal views regarding these, but will refrain from adding my two cents until later. //

I should also mention that Los Angeles has a very active group of FTFers that meet at least once every two months. I founded and organized this CAMCON about two years ago. We have no formal structure and most of us prefer it that way. Usually, we meet on a Saturday and have two rounds of two tables, an ongoing trophy, and some very well played games. Most of our 15-30 regulars do not play by mail, but are enthused about contributing to and playing in Dipcon XXII. Larry Peery and I are optimistic that this nucleus of CAMCONIANS will greatly add to the success of Dipcon XXII next July. In fact, several are already "spreading the news" and making plans to help in various and sundry ways.

It should be noted that we are also considering tossing our hat into the arena to be considered as bidders to select Los Angeles (the City of Champions) as the site for World Dip Con '90! Certainly we realize the cost factor for Brits and East Coast Americans, as well as Canadians, would be greatly increased, but let's not forget our growing Australian neighbors. It would be less for them and who knows rapid their hobby will grow in the next year and a half.//

So let the discussions and weighing of the plusses and minuses begin. But after all is said and done, let us not forget that the main focus of the betterment of our fun hobby is what we all truly strive for.

((Awful grammar aside, I certainly find your attitude very refreshing! Dipcon '89 in San Diego looks better and better the more I hear about it. Keep the news coming and I'll gladly publicise it. Carry on the hard work.

One main problem I see with a Los Angeles' World Dip Con is that it would rule out a combination with Dipcon, which is already scheduled for the East Coast. My nightmare scenario is that World Dip Con is held in the West while Dipcon takes place in the East, hurting the turnout of both. Don't get me wrong. I think you are perfectly entitled to consider hosting World Dip Con, but I reckon the logistics are wrong.

The Australians would certainly have their work cut out for them to out-expand the British hobby in a year and a half! They are an extremely bright and enthusiastic bunch but adding the necessary extra thousand hobby members is certainly beyond even their considerable capabilities!

How about a few comments from abroad on location, turnout and general organisation.))

Brian Dolton Personally, I think World Dip Con should be held in Reykjavik, but then I may just be trying to stir things up...

John Piggott I recently went to MidCon, which had an attendance of 160, somewhat lower than in previous years. Very enjoyable - in fact most people who were there agree that the lack of overcrowding was an improvement - but I suspect that if there had been 20 or 30 fewer it would have seemed pretty empty. 150 sounds like the sort of minimum you should be aiming at. Some of the candidates touted in your lettercolumn sound like glorified housecons - worthy, no doubt, but hardly the thing to go thousands of miles to attend.

I disagree with Iain Bowen. If I attended, I'd combine World Dip Con with my annual holiday; specific locations or a few hundred miles' extra travel wouldn't be important. I suspect this would be generally true. What would be useful would be things for Pat and the kids to do while I'm carousing and debauching, so don't hold it Kalamazoo or Peoria!

Perhaps I should add that it would be a grave disappointment to attend an event and find whole tracts of the American hobby missing because of some petty and irrelevant dispute. This is true despite the fact that most of the people I'd most want to see have the same opinion about petty and irrelevant disputes as I have.

((I'd be interested to hear the opinion of any other prospective attendees from abroad. After all, the main purpose of the convention is to encourage international contacts.))

Mike Gibson I speak for quite a number of hobbyists and editors in Australia, some of whom you may know (John Cain, Andrew England, Luke Clutterbuck) and represent the average Dipper who shows any interest in attending WDC. These comments should be taken as a general consensus of Australian opinion, though of course there may be more, outspoken, alternate ideas from other people here.

1) The internal feuding in the US doesn't worry us, provided it doesn't affect the quality of the WDC event, nor our chief concerns in 2). Feuds are inevitable in a hobby full of diplomats, but if they fuck up an event I've travelled half a world to see, I won't exactly be jumping for joy.

2) Of main interest to Australians is the cyclical nature of the World Dip Cons. We are hoping to hold the WDC in 1992 and will be following the reports of preparations, publicity and the event with interest. We are currently building up the quality of tournaments here, so that by 1992 we'll be quite capable of staging The Big One. We currently cope well with cons of 35-50 people. By your WDC in 1990 we can give you all the details of the time and place of the Australian WDC.

3) I will be in North America for the summer of 1990. I want very much to attend WDC and will probably act as the Australian agent for WDC staging negotiations. I probably reflect many overseas hobbyists concerns when I say that I'm not going to see just WDC, but the whole of the host city and the US culture. For me it's part of a holiday, and I'd like to have fun. I also need to know the place and date well in advance for my itinerary plans.

4) The World Soccer Cup (held every 4 years) is in Italy in 1990 from 8 June - 8 July. I realise that 200 million North Americans are only vaguely aware of exactly what soccer is but hobbyists throughout Europe will be glued to their TV sets or in Italy. I myself will be in Italy rain, hail or shine. Please try to schedule WDC after the soccer World Cup or you may find yourself short of a few Pons (Englishmen).

5) Good luck.

((Thanks. We certainly need it...

I must admit I'm quite impressed with the preparation the Australians have already made for World Dip Con 1992. Keep up the good work, guys.))

Larry Peery I'm not too impressed with the direction the discussion has taken. I get the feeling I'm reading the results of a tennis match and the ball is bouncing from court to court while people frantically run around chasing it and you keep raising and lowering the net. Love it.

((It could be that you're expecting too much from these discussions. The letters here have helped to highlight some of the problems of organising World Dip Con and given possible bidders a chance to put forward their case. The actual decisions will be made by those who actually intend to put in the hard work of running the con but, I feel thanks to the discussion here, their decisions will be more informed ones.

Speaking of decisions, yesterday I spoke to Don Greenwood, the man at Avalon Hill who had been putting a lot of hard work into the proposed Avalon Hill Championships. Unfortunately the powers that be at Avalon Hill have decided not to go ahead with the Championships in 1989 after all. Consequently it is extremely doubtful whether there would even be a convention in 1990.

As a result Ken Peel and I, after some discussion, have decided to abandon our idea of bidding to hold Dipcon and World Dip Con at the Avalon Hill Championships in 1990. Instead we intend to offer our services to David Hood for help with Dixiecon. We feel that Dixiecon is best organised and most established convention. The Dixiecon organisers, and David Hood in particular, have put in the necessary hard work to get their convention off the ground. If you add Ken's experience on previous Dipcon committees plus my own extensive international contacts, I reckon we have the skills necessary for a successful World Dip Con. However, before I start waxing lyrical, I'd like to hear from David Hood and the rest of the Dixiecon regulars. After all, it's their con.

Change of subject...))

Eric Klien I am not responsible for Pentagram Publications.

((I wonder why Don Del Grande printed that you were the culprit in Life of Monty? I guess the search for the hoaxster continues...))

John Piggott I think you should fold ECU. Down the middle where the staples are.

((I usually fold the zine then staple it. Is that wrong?))

## AS THE POUND IN YOUR POCKET TURNS INTO A DOLLAR...

### ISSUE 2: WINTER 1989

This is the biannual subzine of the International Subscription Exchange: a hobby service for the transfer of monies between the USA, Canada, Great Britain and Australia. It can be reproduced by anyone.

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For those of you who haven't heard of the ISE, this is how it works. For instance, if you're an American who wants to sub to the Australian zine Victoriana, all you have to do is send a US dollar cheque to Paul Gardner. Tell him what the money is for and whether you want to receive the zine by sea or airmail. (To compare, airmail is fast - 3 to 10 days - but is usually twice as expensive as domestic mail. Seamail is cheaper but letters can take a month or more.) Paul will inform Andrew England of your request. Andrew will then check the exchange rate for that day, convert the sum into Australian dollars and send the editor concerned your sub money. The service takes a couple of weeks, but it saves you the ridiculous fees which banks charge you for changing small amounts of money.

### STATISTICS FOR THE PERIOD: July 1st\* to December 31st

	NA to UK	UK to NA	NA to Aust	Aust to NA
Sub Fees	\$155.00	\$155.12	\$80.00	\$68.93
# Transfers	8	10	4	9
# Different Zines	10	9	1	6

\* the North American/Australian figures run from June 1st

Over the last six months the amounts going in each direction have balanced beautifully! It's good to see that British hobbyists are now starting to sub to a variety of zines.

### BREAKDOWN BY ZINE

<u>NA Zines and Services</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u># Transfers</u>
Excitement City Unlimited	\$103.81	9
North Shore Game Club Newsletter	\$25.00	1
Returned Sub (Denver Glont)	\$18.29	1
Nutmeg	\$14.60	2
The Cream Shall Rise	\$11.00	2
Diplomacy World	\$9.35	1
Cathy's Ramblings	\$9.00	1
Northern Flame	\$9.00	1
Bushwacker	\$8.00	1
Praxis	\$8.00	1
The Canadian Diplomat	\$5.00	1
Excelsior	\$5.00	1

<u>UK Zines and Services</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u># Transfers</u>
NMR!	\$33.00	2
Mad Policy	\$22.00	2
Prisoners of War	\$22.00	2
Rianna Games Review	\$20.00	1
Ode	\$13.00	1
Mission From God	\$12.00	2
The Yorkshire Gallant	\$10.00	1
Greatest Hits	\$9.00	1
Will It Lead To Trouble?	\$9.00	1
Zine Bank	\$5.00	1

#### Australian Zines and Services

Beowulf	\$80.00	3
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#### BREAKDOWN BY MONTH (Total amount and # transfers)

	NA to UK	UK to NA	NA to Aust	Aust to NA
	Amount #	Amount #	Amount #	Amount #
June	see last issue		\$20.00 1	\$27.08 4
July	-	\$8.60 1	\$30.00 2	\$20.00 2
August	-	-	\$10.00 1	\$13.18 1
September	\$52.00 1	-	-	-
October	\$3.00 1	\$84.88 5	-	\$8.69 2
November	\$50.00 3	\$18.29 1	-	-
December	\$50.00 1	\$45.35 3	-	-

Interest has died off a little in Australian zines over the last couple of months, but I expect it will revive in the New Year. Despite a slow start, the traffic between Britain and North America looks healthier and healthier.

There is also some personnel changes to report. Paul Gardner will be taking over the US side of the ISE effective immediately. Paul is a long-time US hobby stalwart and editor of Not New York. Paul will also be working with Randy Grigsby, who will be restarting the Canadian wing of the ISE. From now on, Canadians, who want to sub to overseas zines, can send their money to Randy.

#### Your ISE reps are:

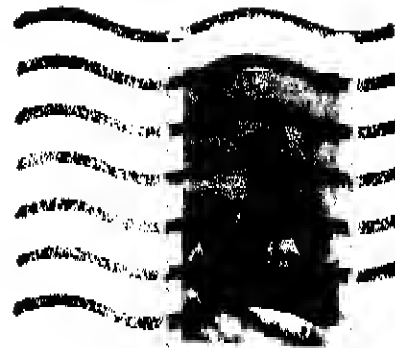
Paul Gardner, 20 Spruce Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301, USA  
 Doug Rowling, 228 Kinnell Avenue, Cardonald, Glasgow G52 3RU,  
 United Kingdom  
 Andrew England, F1/96 South Road, Torrensville, SA 5031,  
 Australia  
 Randy Grigsby, 571 Sunnidale Road RR #2, Barrie, Ontario, L4M 4S4  
 Canada

SIMON BILLENNESS & BARBARA PASSOFF

630 VICTORY BLVD. APT. 6F

STATEN ISLAND, NY 10301

USA



YOUR CREDIT IS: 5.25

THE ABOVE FIGURE IS good/not too good

Here's the Edvard Munch-inspired poster that's popping up all over Washington, illustrating the city's bipartisan consensus about the boy Vice President.



David Hood

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DEADLINE: Saturday, February 11th, 1989